

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /060 W

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P 031205Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2369

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3664

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, US, EAIR

SUBJ: GOZ INSISTS PAN AM TAP TEAM CHIEF BE REPLACED.

FOR AFIC PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR HINTON

1. INTERNAL GOZ STRUGGLE BETWEEN COMMISSAIRE D'ETAT FOR TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS INONGA AND DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENCY BISENGIAMANA OVER FUTURE OF HUTT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED IN INONGA'S FAVOR WHO INSISTS HUTT MUST BE REPLACED.

2. FOR SOME TIME A BEHIND THE SCENES STRUGGLE HAS BEEN GOING ON BETWEEN INONGA AND BISENGIMANA OVER HUTT'S FUTURE. BISENGIMANA, WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN DOWNFALL OF INONGA'S PREDECESSOR, EKETIBI, HAS LONG FELT PERSON WHO COMBINED FUNCTIONS OF TAP TEAM CHIEF AND HEAD OF AIR ZAIRE SHOULD HAVE NECESSARY AUTONOMY TO RUN AIRLINE AND SHOULD REPORT TO BUREAU OF PRESIDENT RATHER THAN COMMETAT FOR TRANSPORT. BISENGIMANA HAS WORKED WITH LOCAL ICH REP GATT TO PREPARE LOG REPORT INTENDED FOR MOBUTU REBUTTING INONGA'S COMPLAINTS ABOUT HUTT'S ALLEGED POOR PERFORMANCE. BISENGIMANA PROMISED ARRANGE MEETING MAY 2 BETWEEN MOBUTU, HUTT AND GATT AT WHICH TIME REPORT COULD BE PRESENTED.

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3. GATT TELEPHONED MOBUTU MAY 2 WHO STATED THAT HE

WAS NOT PREPARED TO GET INTO DETAILS OF OPERATION OF AIRLINE AND THAT HE EXPECTED INONGA TO EXERCISE OVERALL SUPERVISION OF AIR ZAIRE BUT NOT TRY TO MANAGE (GERER) IT. MOBUTU PROMISED INONGA WOULD SET UP MEETING WITH GATT.

4. INONGA AND GATT MET FOR OVER AN HOUR MAY 2 AND COMMETAT MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WAS A QUESTION OF HUTT OR HIM. WHILE HE WAS NOT SUBMITTING FORMAL REQUEST UNDER CONTRACT FOR HUTT'S REMOVAL, HE TOLD GATT TO INFORM V.P. RICE OF HIS POSITION. IF PAN AM WERE TO REFUSE, INONGA HINTED THAT GOZ WOULD ASK TAP CONTRACT BE REVISED TO ELIMINATE HUTT FROM MANAGEMENT ROLE.

5. GATT TRIED TO GO OVER ELEMENTS OF REPORT ANSWERING CALUMNIES AGAINST HUTT BUT SAW THAT INONGA WAS INFLEXIBLE. GATT IS RETURNING TO NEW YORK MAY 3 AND WILL REPORT TO RICE. HE HAS RELUCTANTLY COME TO THE VIEW THAT HUTT MUST GO. PRIOR TO HIS MEETING WITH INONGA HE WAS INCLINED TO RECOMMEND THAT IF GOZ INSISTED ON HUTT'S REMOVAL, PAN AM SHOULD COUNTER WITH THREAT TO TERMINATE TAP CONTRACT. AS OF NOW, HE BELIEVES PERSONALITY PROBLEMS ARE SUCH THAT INONGA AND HUTT CANNOT WORK TOGETHER AND THAT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY HOPE OF REMOVING AIR ZAIRE FROM INONGA'S JURISDICTION.

6. COMMENT: IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT BISENGIMANA LOST THIS IMPORTANT ROUND. ONE FACTOR MAY BE THAT INONGA WAS APPOINTED TO HIS PRESENT JOB ONLY RECENTLY, BUT MORE IMPORTANT IS FACT THAT HE COMES FROM PRESIDENT'S REGION OF EQUATEUR.
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